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| **The Board of:** | Riceville Volunteer Fire Department |
| **Met at:** | 6:30PM |
| **On:** | Monday, September 21, 2026 |
| **For:** | Regular Board Meeting |
| **Moderator:** | Dan Little (Chairperson) |
| **Members Present:** | Kent Creasman, Merel Johnson, Butch Laughter, Lisa McCallister, Carla McLendon, Mark Siler and Steve Wickham |
| **Not Present:** | Lee Barrett (Vacation) |
| **Guest(s):** | |

**1. Call the Meeting to Order:** Dan Little called the meeting to order at 6:32PM.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer:** Dan Little opened the meeting in prayer and then asked everyone to stand if able and join him in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**3. Approval of Minutes:** Draft minutes for the August 17 Regular and Executive Session meetings were emailed to the Board on September 1. Merel Johnson made a motion to accept the meeting minutes as written. Mark Siler seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**4. Treasurer's Report:** Financial reports for the month ending August 2026 were emailed to the Board on September 18. Katie Payne had previously explained Sales Tax (Line Item 4101) is received from the County three months after it is collected. The Sales Tax for May was received in August, and the last of these payments (for June) was received today. The August Financials reflect the Ad Valorem Tax end-of-year reconciliation payment received from the County (Line Item 4104) as explained by Katie last month. Katie relayed expenses were within normal limits, with nothing major to report. Kent Creasman made a motion to accept the August financials. Merel Johnson seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**5. Fire Chief's Report:** The Fire Chief's and Training Reports were emailed to the Board on September 17.

Assistant Chief McEntire gave an overview of the Training Report, which included 2249.25 total training hours for January 1 through September 15, 2026. A new requirement for EMS CE is to provide online and in-person skills training on a monthly rather than quarterly basis. Extrication training will take place at the Swannanoa Fire Department on September 28. Technical Rescuer Rope Series training begins in September at Enka Fire Department. Three RVFD members will attend the new VFIS Driving Instructor class on October 7 at Western Piedmont Community College in Morganton.

Chief Kelly provided an overview of his report, noting Total Calls remained consistent (139 in August; 139 in July), with the highest call type being Falls (13). He also noted County-provided statistics on response times do not match those collected by the various Departments, with County statistics reflecting benchmarks are not being met. There is a budget meeting with the County on October 6, at which Chief Kelly

anticipates this item will be discussed. He has spoken with the Director of Communications about not all parties being dispatched to calls and has enlisted the help of Fairview Fire Department in regard to ensuring the County benchmark of 22 Firefighters report to calls. Chief Kelly further gave an overview of Busiest Times of Day (11AM, 12 Noon and 2 PM); Busiest Days of the Week (Sunday and Monday); Projects and Tasks; Staffing (two part-time paramedics completed their oral board process); and Maintenance (1110 continues to have AC issues).

**6. Old Business:**

**A. Building Repairs Update (Door Replacements) –** Chief Kelly contacted McGill Engineering, who referred him to another company. He spoke with a representative from that company who lives locally but relayed the doors are manufactured in Nebraska, which would result in shipping being about as much as the cost of the doors. Chief Kelly relayed the cost shared with him is in line with the FEMA funds on hand. He is waiting to hear back from the local representative, who had shared his schedule is full, but he would "work us in."

**B. TAC 11 Disposition –** After extensive troubleshooting efforts on TAC 11, which is a 2015 Tahoe, Dan Little feels the issue is electrical. He has not received a call back from an individual reported to be proficient in this type work, even though he has called him multiple times over the past months. To replace the wiring harness in the vehicle would be very expensive, with Dan estimating up to $12,000 (labor included). Due to the estimated repair cost, age and mileage, Dan recommends the vehicle be salvaged through auction (Fletcher). He further recommends items such as decals, lights and radios be removed from the vehicle prior to salvage. Costs to the Department would potentially be a tow bill and the percentage of sale that is kept by the auction business. After a lengthy discussion, Kent Creasman made a motion to salvage the vehicle at auction, providing any cost to the Department was not more than that of the tow bill. Merel Johnson seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**C. Board Member Applications -** Two applications were received within the timeframe outlined in the Bylaws. The Board discussed continuing to seek applicants, as there will be three vacant seats at the Annual Meeting. Lisa McCallister made a motion to accept applications until 5:00PM on Friday, October 2. Mark Siler seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**D. Community Center Use –** Lisa McCallister shared feedback from the Community Center Committee, which met on September 16. (Lee Barrett had provided his position on the matter to the Board via email following that meeting.) It is the recommendation of the two remaining Board members that the Community Center be used for events managed/sponsored by the Fire Department. Examples given included the RVFD Board of Directors, the RVFD Auxiliary, the Scouts, government informational meetings and political elections. After a lengthy discussion, Mark Siler made a motion that the large Fire Department Assembly/Training Room no longer be available for personal or private use and that the associated signage be removed from the exterior of the building. Lisa McCallister seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**7. New Business:**

**A. Annual Meeting (Logistics and Newspaper Notice) –** Carla McLendon emailed the proposed newspaper notice to the Board on September 1. The notice was the same as used last year, except for the change in meeting date. Lisa McCallister made a motion to have the notice run in the Asheville Citizen Times on Sunday, September 27, Thursday, October 1, and Friday, October 2. Kent Creasman seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Lisa McCallister has served as Chair of the Logistics Committee for the past three years and offered to serve in that capacity again.

**B. Department Newsletter –** Merel Johnson asked about the feasibility of resurrecting the Department newsletter. The Board briefly discussed the benefits, cost and publication frequency. In response to a question, Katie Payne relayed a line item exists to cover the cost should the Board decide to move forward. Dan Little asked Merel to research further, with plans to discuss at next month's Regular meeting.

**8. Announcements:**

**A. Annual Meeting -** Dan Little announced the Annual Meeting of the Corporation will be held on Monday, October 12, 2026 at 7:00PM. The Regular Meeting of the Board will immediately follow the Annual Meeting.

**B. Halloween Open House –** Chief Kelly relayed this event has been assigned to Captain Redden to form a committee.

**C. Christmas in the Community -** Chief Kelly relayed this event has been assigned to Captain Redden to form a committee.

**D. Barbecue Fundraiser -** Scouting America Troop 17 and Pack 17 will host their annual barbecue fundraiser on Saturday, September 26, from 11:00AM until 3:00PM at the Fire Department.

**9. Public Comment:** There was no public comment.

**10. Adjournment:** Kent Creasman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:59PM. Lisa McCallister seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**Note: Chairman Dan Little only votes in the event of a tie.**